

Plasticizer

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Plasticizers or *Dispersants* are additives that increase the plasticity or fluidity of the material to which they are added, these include plastics, cement, concrete, wallboard and clay bodies. Although the same compounds are often used for both plastics and concretes, the desired effect is slightly different. In 2004, the worldwide market for plasticizers had a total volume of around 5.5 million tons, which led to a turnover of about 7 billion Euro.

Plasticizers for concrete soften the mix before it hardens, increasing its workability or reducing water, and are usually not intended to affect the properties of the final product after it hardens.

Plasticizers for wallboard increase fluidity of the mix, allowing lower use of water and thus reducing energy to dry the board.

The plasticizers for plastics soften the final product increasing its flexibility.